******CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF EDUCATION AT ST EUGENE’S PS.**

A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from our website [www.steugenesps.com](http://www.steugenesps.com) at any time. We encourage our parents, grandparents and extended families to ‘like’ and ‘follow’ our Facebook and Twitter accounts to be kept up to date with all our exciting news at St Eugene’s PS.

Newsletter 03

November 2020

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October 2020

**November Diary Dates:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Mon**  **16th** | Parent –Teacher phone calls for P6/7 |
| **Tues**  **17th** | Parent –Teacher phone calls for P3/4/5 |
| **Thurs**  **19th** | Parent –Teacher phone calls for Reception P1 and P2 |
| **16th – 20th Nov** | Anti-Bullying Week 2020 |

**SCHOOL MILK**

Payment for school milk in November and December is now due. Please send £6.40 in a clearly marked envelope to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. If your child did not take school milk in September and October and you now want to order, please mark this on the envelope too.

**ATTENDANCE**

We understand that children may be absent from school more than usual due to restrictions around Covid-19, children and/or members of their household presenting with a new continuous cough, a temperature above 37.8, or loss of sense of taste and/or smell should book a test as soon as possible by contacting the NHS 111 or online at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Children should not attend school when they or any member of their household have symptoms or are waiting on test results.

In the event that your child, a member of your household or a close contact of your child tests positive, you must inform the school straight away. Your details will be kept confidential and we will never name a child or member of staff to anyone other than the PHA. All members of our community will be notified of a positive case via text. Those who have been identified as being in contact with the infected person from our school community will receive guidance on what to do next, such as isolating and/or seeking a test. It is important to keep Miss Gormley informed so that she can advise you about returning to school. Please remember that we are following DE guidance and must continue to do so to protect our children and staff.

**COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES**

You may be aware that Minister Weir issued a video message to parents and carers on social media earlier this week. Minister Weir has urged parents and carers to keep their distance, not to gather at the school gates and to wear a face covering whilst on school grounds. Thank you to our parents and carers for following this advice so diligently this week. We would like to emphasise the importance of social distancing and ask that at home time, in particular you wait by your vehicle and do not proceed beyond the green gate unless you have a child in P1/2. It is important that parents and carers do not sit together on the green benches or gather in groups, as this breaks the social distancing requirements. These steps are for the safety of you, your child, family and our entire school community and I thank you in advance for your co-operation.

**PARENT-TEACHER TELEPHONE MEETINGS 2020**

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Parent-Teacher telephone calls that were scheduled for Thursday 22nd of October due to the DE closing the schools for an extended Halloween break.

We have now set new dates for these telephone conversations. In order to limit any further disruption to your child’s education we have decided to carry these out whilst the children are still in school. To do this, we have arranged for Miss McAnaw to cover the classes whilst your child’s teacher is released. We realise that this may cause some inconvenience for parents who have children in a number of different classes, but this is the safest, least disruptive way to manage the situation in such challenging times. If this arrangement causes you difficulty, please contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you.

The new dates are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monday 16th November** | **MR GORMLEY’S CLASS** |
| **Tuesday 17th November** | **MRS CONNOLLY’S CLASS** |
| **Thursday 19th November** | **MISS GORMLEY’S CLASS** |

**We aim to stick to the same time as your original appointment, however, if this no longer suits and you wish to change your time please contact Mrs Gallagher at the office.** Your child’s teacher will call you at your scheduled time from a withheld number and the call will last no more than 10 minutes. It is vital that you are ready to receive the call, this is an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress at school and any concerns that there may be.

**HOMEWORK**

Our homework arrangements are currently working well for pupils, parents and staff. Remember that we are operating on a rotational basis of an ‘A’ and ‘B’ homework pack. Children will receive their homework pack for the week on a Monday and must not return it to school until the Friday morning, where it will be quarantined over the weekend. The following week the children will receive their ‘B’ pack and follow the same system. *It is important that children remember to return their homework folder each Friday as failure to do so causes operational issues with this system.*

**ENGAGE PROGRAMME**

We have been allocated additional money by the DE to deliver the Engage Programme. The aim of the Engage Programme is to limit any long-term adverse impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on educational standards by supporting pupils’ learning and engagement on their return to school through provision of high quality teaching support. Staff will meet on Monday to discuss which children would benefit most from additional support through this programme and you will be informed if your child has been identified. The programme will be led by Miss McAnaw, who will be in school each Friday withdrawing groups for Literacy & Numeracy support. This is a fantastic scheme and we know that many children will benefit greatly from the additional support.

**ACTIVE BODIES & ACTIVE MINDS**

Our P3 children have been engaging with Mrs Preston in ‘Active Bodies & Active Minds’. We have designed this programme to revise key concepts from the Foundation Stage that we feel have not be secured as a result of the Covid-19 school closures. The children in this class have been enjoying the additional small group support between 2.15 and 3.15 Monday to Thursday. We hope that they reap the rewards of this intervention.

**BLENDED/REMOTE LEARNING**

Children in P1-P7 have now all received their emergency class bubble isolation pack. This pack must be only used in the event of the whole class bubble having to isolate.

In the event of your child not being able to attend school due to COVID-19 we will use Seesaw as our online learning platform, where children’s learning can be documented. Students will be able to access pupil work/activities and “show what they know” using photos, videos, drawings etc. They will be able to receive feedback from their class teacher. We thank our parents and children for signing up to Seesaw so promptly.

Seesaw will also be used throughout the school year to share information and photographs between home and school. We know that many of you are enjoying using this app already and finding out about what your child has been up to in school. Please remember that teachers will only access these accounts during school hours and will not be available outside of these times.

In addition to Seesaw children should be accessing their Studyladder and Mathletics accounts regularly (Mathletics P2-7 only). Teachers are tracking each child’s progress as they complete their set activities online and are rewarding our boys and girls with their certificates for their achievements. If you have any difficulties accessing any of these platforms you should telephone the school.

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

In an effort to reduce paper and stay in line with the DE guidance to reduce items moving between home and school we are moving towards digital communication. You will be aware that our text service is now running and that this has been used to alert you to updates and documents on our school website. You will find our latest policies and school holiday dates in the ‘files’ section. Newsletters and correspondence can be found on the home page or in the ‘news’ section. Our social media accounts and Seesaw App complement our website by showcasing the work that goes on within our school. Remember that due to Covid-19 staff are not permitted to engage in face to face meetings with parents but will happily discuss any issues with you via telephone appointment arranged through Mrs Gallagher.

**RELAX KIDS & SCHOOL COUNSELLING SERVICE**

Given the times that we are in, we are feeling incredibly blessed to be able to continue to offer both Relax Kids and a School Counselling Service to our boys and girls. If you filled out a slip for your child to see the Counsellor, please rest assured that your child’s name has been added to our waiting list and they will be called as soon as possible.

**FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME**

Flu immunisation for our pupils will take place on the 1st of December 2020. If you have not returned your letter for the school nurse, please do so as soon as possible, even if you do not give consent for your child to be immunised.

**CHRISTMAS SHOW**

One of the highlights of our school year is always our Christmas Show. At St Eugene’s PS we recognise the importance of this annual event and we are eager not to rob our children of this experience. We plan for each class bubble to perform an individual show, which we hope to record on to DVD and sell to our school community. It is vital that children continue to enjoy as many experiences as safely possible despite the pandemic. We know that you, our parents and carers, will be pleased to learn that you will still get the opportunity to see your child perform, albeit in a slightly different format.

**FRIENDS OF ST EUGENE’S PS (F.O.S.E)**

Whilst Friends of St Eugene’s activity is currently paused to allow us to focus keeping our school community safe and attend to matters that are business critical, we would like to offer an invitation to any of our new families who would be interested in getting involved in the group when business resumes. F.O.S.E are always on the lookout for new members, if you or any member of our school community are interested in getting involved leave a message at the office with Mrs Gallagher and we will put you in touch with the group.